

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph of column 1, lines 9-14, with the following:

[Ronguers]Rongeurs are used to excise tissue, degenerated disc materials or bone during surgical procedures. During regular use, tissue, blood, or other fluids collect in the voids between the top and bottom shafts of the instrument. Multiple uses result in a buildup of material. To clean a rongeur thoroughly it must be disassembled.

Please delete the entire paragraph of column 1, lines 51-54.

Please replace the paragraph of column 3, lines 53-58, with the following:

The preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated in FIGS. 2-9B, [as well as in FIGS. 10A-16B,] and described in the text that follows. The reader should bear in mind, however, that what follows is a description of a particular embodiment, and that the details of this embodiment are not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

Please replace the paragraph of column 4, lines 47-62, with the following:

Driving slot **216** is not symmetrical. Due to a 14° slant from vertical ([FIG. 11A]FIGS. 5A-5C), it has an early exit on backside **227** with radius **226** and ramp **225** for driving pin **217** to travel along. (The profiles of backside **227**, radius **226** and ramp **225**, and the respective 9° and 14° slant angles of release knob **203** and driving slot **216** , are observed to work in the preferred embodiment to make the release mechanism operate smoothly, but neither these profiles nor slant angles are believed to be critical to the fabrication of a working convertible

instrument.) The position of ramp/radius **225, 226** relative to horizontal shaft/base **202** facilitates the “snap in” operation of the preferred embodiment. As noted above, driving pin **217** does not move vertically during seating and unseating; the front handle piece **206** with driving slot **216** actually moves down and out of the way as driving pin **217** is slid forward.

Please replace the paragraph of column 4, lines 63-67, with the following:

The screw **238** backing up release knob **203** is permanently locked into place. [BaHI]Ball bearing **234** and spring **235** in detent mechanism **234, 235, 236** is permanently installed in drill hole **230**. Disassembly of any parts requiring tools is to be done by the manufacturer only.